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September 18, 2006

Dear Superintendent/Principal,

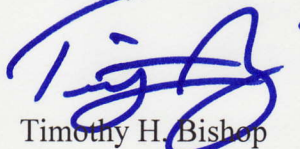
Preparing students in each generation to accept the responsibilities of effective citizenship is very important. The next generation will be the stewards of our communities, nation, and planet. The importance of civic awareness and participation in the process of government is crucial and we, as citizens and teachers of young adults, need to make every effort to acknowledge this.

I would like to offer your high school students a challenge for the 2006-07 school year. The challenge is The Civic Engagement Project. Several schools took part in this project last year, and we are hoping for even more participation this year. The purpose of the project is to increase student awareness regarding the importance of voting, the importance of having sufficient knowledge to vote intelligently, and the importance of giving one's time to a specific cause. At community, national, and global levels, we must find ways to reconnect students with the vision, the rights and the responsibilities of democratic citizenship.

I urge you to involve your students in this project. Please distribute the enclosed application to interested students and return them to my office.

Thank you for your efforts in promoting civic awareness and empowering our youth to become involved. A representative from our office will be following up with you shortly to answer questions and confirm your participation.

Sincerely,



Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress

cc: Social Studies Department